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QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR: QUESTION OF ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

GE.83-10258

G. Indonesia

Information reviewed and transmitted to the Government

70. The Working Group's previous activities in relation to Indonesia appear in its two earlier reports.15/ In 1980 and 1981 the Working Group transmitted to the Government of Indonesia information on 23 reported disappearances together with the Group's request for information. Most of the disappearances reportedly took place between February and June 1979, one reportedly occurred in 1977, two in 1978 and one in 1980. With regard to this latter report the Group learned from a non-governmental source, subsequent to the transmission of the report to the Government, that the person in question was being held in a prison in Dili. No official confirmation of this has been received. With regard to the remaining 22 disappearances, 12 reportedly resulted directly or indirectly from the surrender of the persons concerned to military authorities, two had reportedly been captured and four arrested. One person reportedly disappeared from prison and one person was reportedly seen on television as a prisoner prior to his disappearance. Most were reportedly connected with the Frente Revolucionario de Timor Leste Independiente (FRETILIN).

71. During 1982 the Working Group again contacted the Government with requests for information and by a letter dated 5 October 1982 the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations Office at Geneva reported that no further information was available to be conveyed to the Working Group. That letter stated that for the purpose of finding the facts relating to the alleged missing person as well as tracing those persons, however, the Indonesian Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have concluded an agreement and it suggested that the Working Group should contact the ICRC to obtain the appropriate information on this matter. The Permanent Representative also emphasized that the Indonesian Government could not be expected to be in a position to find the alleged missing persons since circumstances relating to those persons were beyond the control of the Indonesian Government. This contact with the ICRC has been made. The Group is aware of the ICRC's involvement in East Timor, which has included, for some years, medical and nutritional aid to the inhabitants. The ICRC's annual reports for 1979, 1980 and 1981 are available to the Group and demonstrate that they have access to all parts of this territory, despite the difficulty in communications. They have many local contacts. They have now informed the Working Group that an agreement with the Government was indeed made in spring 1981 which included the undertaking by the ICRC of tracing activities.

15/ E/CN.4/1435, paras. 117-121; E/CN.4/1492, paras. 110-113.

72. The Working Group takes note that by the time most of the alleged disappearances occurred, in 1979/1980, the Indonesian Government had been in control of East Timor for several years, and had promulgated the amnesty under which a number of the persons concerned are said to have surrendered. In these circumstances the Working Group could only recommend to the Commission that the suggested approach, by means of the ICRC's investigations, be accepted if the ICRC is afforded by the Government all necessary facilities for tracing disappeared persons. The Group accordingly is reserving its position until further news is received from the ICRC.

73. The following is a statistical summary of the reports of enforced or involuntary disappearances in Indonesia dealt with by the Working Group since it was established.

I.	Cases received by the Working Group		23
II.	Cases transmitted to the Government by the Working Group		23
III.	Answers received relating specifically to cases transmitted to the Government by the Group[16/]		1
	A. Answers from the Government	0	
	B. Answers from other sources	1	

16/ Persons arrested and in prison: 1.